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10 December 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : Congressional Lunches, 1955

It is recommended that the program of Congressional Lunches initiated last year be re-instituted following the convening of the 84th Congress in January. The following tentative schedule is recommended:

1. 10 January 1955

Chairman James P. Richards (D., S.C.), and Congressman John W. Vorys (R., Ohio), of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Chairman Richards and Mr. Vorys are currently on a trip around the world with emphasis on the Far East. Mr. Richards has had no CIA briefing, and Mr. Vorys has had very little. The luncheon could be followed by a debriefing of the Congressmen in connection with their recent trip. Mr. Richards introduced a bill to establish a Joint Committee on Central Intelligence in the 83rd Congress. As far as I can determine, he did so largely because of his personal friendship for Senator Mansfield, who, undoubtedly, requested Mr. Richards to introduce the bill which was identical with Senator Mansfield's second bill calling for a ten man Joint Committee.

2. 17 January 1955

Senator Richard B. Russell (D., Ga.), Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee (with Senator Harry F. Byrd (D., Va.), unless the Chairman wishes to come alone).

This will present an opportunity to discuss the role which the Armed Services Committee wishes to play in relation to CIA, as well as the problem of the Joint Committee. It also would be an opportunity to discuss any proposed legislation on an informal basis.

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3. 24 January 1955

Congressman John W. McCormack (D., Mass.), House Majority Leader.

Congressman McCormack has always been a fine supporter of CIA, and has lunched with us several times in the past.

4. 31 January 1955

Senator Lyndon B. Johnson (D., Tex.), and Senator Earle C. Clements (D., Ky.), Senate Majority Leader and Majority Whip.

Neither of these Senators has received any CIA briefing, and they may be reluctant to leave the floor at lunch time. However, it is recommended that an invitation be extended to them, and if they are not able to come at lunch time then another time should be arranged for them.

5. 7 February 1955

Senator Clinton P. Anderson (D., N. Mex.), Chairman, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

6. 14 February 1955

Senator Carl Hayden (D., Ariz.), Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee and the Committee on Printing.

Senator Hayden has always been most cooperative on CIA matters, both in connection with appropriations and as former Chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing. He will presumably give up the latter Chairmanship in view of his Chairmanship of the Appropriations Committee.

7. 21 February 1955

Senator William F. Knowland (R., Cal.), Senate Minority Leader.

8. 28 February 1955

Senator Walter F. George (D., Ga.), Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Senator George has never received any CIA briefings.

On two occasions last year, we attempted to invite Congressman Carl Vinson (D., Ga.), to lunch, but he canceled out in both instances. As a matter of fact, Mr. Vinson, who now becomes Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, does not usually accept outside luncheon engagements, but prefers to have a call paid on him in his office early in the morning. It is, therefore, recommended that the DCI call on Chairman Vinson at an early opportunity. He is expected back in Washington on 18 December.

Congressman George H. Mahon (D., Tex.), who will be Chairman of the House Armed Services Appropriations Subcommittee, also does not like to go out to lunches, but does like to come in for a morning cup of coffee. It is recommended that such an invitation be extended to Mr. Mahon in January.

It is recommended that, sometime during the winter, we invite Congressman Frelinghuysen (R., N.J.), to bring his weekly group down for breakfast as we did last year, provided the group continues as an entity. Similarly, it might be advisable to invite a somewhat more senior group, which has held together for some years. This group includes not only the Vice-President and Senator Potter, as former members who still meet with them, but also Congressman Gerald R. Ford (R., Mich.), who was the Chairman of the Army Appropriations Subcommittee last year, and who has been helpful to us in the past.

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